



Spark Gap

Vol. 35, Issue 7, July 2018 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-five years*

ON OUR MARC:

I hope everyone had a nice and safe 4th of July holiday.

I would like to thank all those that came out for the Strawberry Fest. We had over 15 members that came out to show support. While we were talking with people that would stop by and ask questions, we had Bruce, Steve, Ron and Jack on the radio's making contact with other hams. Every one there seemed to be enjoying the day. Unfortunately, our day came to an end too soon. The weather was hot, winds started to picking up about 2pm and the sky was getting dark. I saw lightning to the north. We decided to break down and head home. Other vendors were doing the same. However, the storm never hit us. We did enjoy the strawberry's.

Next on our agenda was Field Day. Things ran smooth as radios were all working and we were ready to get on the air at 2:00pm. We had Steve, Dave, Chris, Sam, Mike and his son were on the radios. Wilson was the cook for the day.

We had 23 people stop by. Also about 10pm, we had a shift change. Thank you Mike, Noel and Rusty for coming down and taking the night shift. Sunday was day two and we had Chris, Dave and Wilson back for more radio talk. Once all was said and done, we had about 200 contacts for the 24 hour period. Again, thanks to all those that came out and helped. I'm sure we will get a full report from Steve at the meeting this month.

Next event will be Heartnut Sept 9th. More info to follow, once we get it.

July's dinner social was held at Jockamo's. We had 3 people attend and they had a good time. August's dinner social will be held at Arni's in Greenwood on Wed, Aug 8.

See you Saturday. Coffee will be on.

Jacki - K16QOG

MARC President



Birthdays for the month of July:

KB9RBB - Tom Achors

KM6CRL - Bill Jackson

KD9FPO - John Dickerson

RadioShack "Express Stores" to Open in HobbyTown USA Locations

According to a July 13 article in the *New York Post*, RadioShack is planning to open "express stores" within HobbyTown USA locations. The nearly century-old, twice-bankrupt retailer has signed a deal with HobbyTown USA to put a mini RadioShack outlet in some 50 HobbyTown USA stores across the country that would sell items that might appeal to radio amateurs and experimenters. Those locations will be identified with RadioShack signage. HobbyTown markets remote-controlled cars and boats as well as drones and other hobby-related merchandise.

RadioShack shuttered all of its company-owned retail outlets. Its last unsuccessful effort to bail itself out of debt involved a deal with cellular provider Sprint. HobbyTown USA has 140 retail outlets, and, according to the *Post* article, RadioShack eventually could carve out a presence -- on the order of 500 square feet -- in all of them. Stores in HobbyTown USA's headquarters town of Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as in Parker, Colorado, and Mooresville, North Carolina, will be among the first to host RadioShack express concessions.

"HobbyTown is purchasing the RadioShack merchandise and offering it to its hobbyist customers who need the tools, wires, and other accessories that RadioShack makes," the *Post* article said.

The article quoted Steve Moroneso, chief executive of General Wireless Operations Inc. -- an affiliate of hedge fund Standard General, which acquired RadioShack in 2015 -- as saying that RadioShack's strategy now is not to own brick-and-mortar stores. RadioShack came out of bankruptcy in January with 400 dealers, an online retail presence, and a distribution center. General Wireless acquired the 1,743 retail outlets that survived RadioShack's 2015 bankruptcy.

Moroneso also told the *Post* that there is "plenty of interest from dealers who want to open a full-line Radio Shack." *ARRL News July 2018*



RadioShack®

Challenges of Emergency Communications

Headlining the forums at the 2018 Indianapolis Hamfest was Mike Corey, KI1U. During his half hour ARRL presentation he broke down many of the elements logged during Amateur Radio responses to last year's hurricanes. Corey says those disasters taught us a lesson and the Amateur Radio community must change to address the challenges of emergency communications.

He says hams must be better prepared not only to show up with a radio and antenna but be versed in a second language, first aid and other survival skills. Hurricane Maria proved that in Puerto Rico last year. He says the first 22 hams that arrived in Puerto Rico were faced with limited survival equipment. They had radio gear but needed other essential survival gear to survive the heat, rain, mud and limited power conditions.

His 90 page after action report highlighted the need for better trained and coordinated Amateur Radio volunteers. Corey said once there were boots on the ground those Amateurs had to improvise to survive and support the communications effort.

Within six days of getting the call for help from the Red Cross the ARRL HQ had vetted fifty hams that had the skills to be the first hams to fly into Puerto Rico. Corey said over 500 hams responded to the need for communicators. They ranged in age from 19 to 72 and came from 17 states. Three Indiana hams helped make up that group.

Corey said thanks to DX Engineering and other Amateur Radio equipment outlets they were able to quickly build 50 portable Go-cases of radio equipment for the trip. The total expense reached well over one hundred thousand dollars. To date, Corey says, about 95 percent of the loaned equipment has been returned to ARRL Headquarters. During the disaster he said 40 meters proved to be the best band for communicating across the island until local repeaters were brought back online.

Corey says the EMCOMM response plan is being rewritten as Amateur Radio assesses its role in disaster response. From August 17 to October 3, 2017 the hurricanes caused 281 billion dollars in damages and over six thousand fatalities. Mike Corey said lessons learned: Use ICS-205 as a standard message form, train more PIO's, set message priorities for life saving and outbound messages, continue cooperation with Red Cross and other served agencies and to finally vet enough volunteers to meet the challenge before a disaster occurs.

-Jack, w8ish



Mike Corey, KI1U

Use of Drones Gains Traction in CERT Program; Is ARES Next?

Ridgefield is a small town in southwestern Connecticut, and faces common hazards such as hurricanes, thunderstorms, blizzards, and the flooding that often follows. Ridgefield has an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), prepared to meet these challenges, and has stepped up its game recently with its use of drones to collect information for responders on the ground. The Emergency Manager and CERT Coordinator had a successful first deployment during a recent major thunderstorm.

The team has trained over 150 residents in preparedness and disaster response. Of these, 40 members belong to the Incident Management Team (IMT), meaning they have received additional, specialized training to support Ridgefield's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). IMT members, including radio amateurs, are trained in skills such as public information, damage assessment, logistics, sheltering, and Amateur Radio operation.

Ridgefield's team used drones to perform damage assessment -- they give a bird's eye view, which provides a much better picture of the scope of damage than a ground-level survey. For example, several trees, power poles and lines could come down on a twisting road, with emergency responders having no idea what's happening beyond the first fallen tree. The drones help the team see conditions beyond the tangled mass of trees and wires and report to responders on the ground.

Drones were first tested when Ridgefield was hit by a storm with winds as high as 135 MPH. The information collected was then shared with the local power company so that utility crews could better respond to power outages. The drones succeeded in giving CERT members, and the power company a peek beyond major road blockages. The National Weather Service was also able to make use of the drone footage for its own assessments.

There is rapidly-changing regulation of drones. The key is to operate them within the regulations and to operate them safely. The CERT Coordinator is a certified drone pilot. The Ridgefield CERT program also holds an FAA Public Safety Certificate of Authorization. The team currently has four drone pilots and four visual observers (who assist the pilots with navigation). - *adapted from FEMA's June 27 CERT eBrief*

[Partners ARRL and FEMA have enjoyed a longstanding memorandum of agreement (MoA), renewed most recently in 2014. In June 2003, ARRL became an official affiliate program of Citizen Corps, an initiative within the US Department of Homeland Security. The Statement of Affiliation makes ARRL an affiliate under the four charter Citizen Corps programs--Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Community Emergency Response Teams and Medical Reserve Corps.-- ed.]

..... ARRL, *ARES News* July 2018



Amateur Radio Operator Settles with DOJ, FCC for \$7,000

Thursday, July 05, 2018

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FCC reached a settlement with an amateur radio operator for intentionally causing interference to other amateur radio operators' transmissions and failing to provide station identification when transmitting. The FCC worked with the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania to reach an agreement with Brian Crow arising from an FCC forfeiture order that found his behavior violated the Communications Act and the FCC's rules.

The settlement requires Crow to pay the U.S. Treasury \$7,000 — a substantial payment for an amateur operator. The [initial proposed penalty in 2014 was \\$11,500](#).

“When a ‘ham radio’ operator interferes with other operators, the whole amateur radio system is threatened — potentially to the point that it could fall apart,” said Rosemary Harold, chief of the Enforcement Bureau. “Amateur radio licensees know that the rules require them to share the airwaves, which means that bad actors cannot plead ignorance. This settlement is a significant payment for an individual operator, and it sends a serious message: Play by the rules in the amateur radio band or face real consequences. We thank the U.S. Attorney’s Office for understanding the importance of this type of case and pushing it forward to ensure a resolution that included strong penalties for substantial violations of the law.”

Crow operates an amateur radio station (call sign K3VR) from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Amateur radio operators are required to hold a license from the FCC and to cooperate with each other when using amateur radio frequencies, which are shared frequencies. The commission found that Crow intentionally caused interference to other amateur radio operators and blocked others' use of the airwaves. Crow also failed to transmit his FCC assigned call sign, which allows other amateur operators to identify the source of transmissions that occupy the amateur radio bands, as required by the commission's rules.

He is also limited to “technician class” operating privileges for the next six months, after which — if no new violations have been found — he will again be authorized to operate with “amateur extra” operating privileges. Amateur radio license classes permit some licensees additional operating privileges, such as access to more amateur frequencies, depending on which exam they passed. Higher class access is a privilege that the FCC can curtail or even deny based on conduct by the licensee.

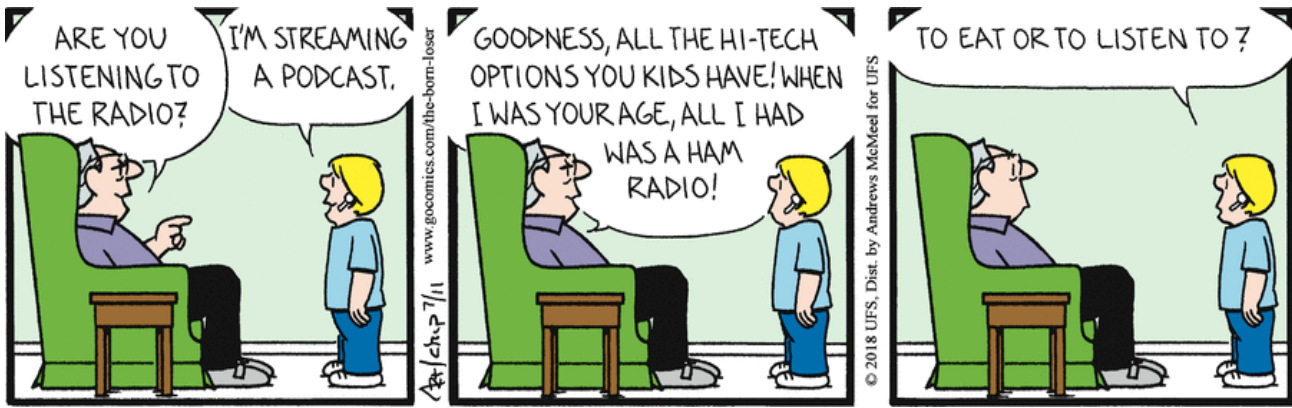
Harold also pointed out the work of the FCC field agents involved in this case: “I want to thank our outstanding field agents for the continued vigilance and hard work in ensuring our airwaves are used lawfully,” she said.

For more information and comments on this story follow the link listed below.

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/newsID/17074>

..... *Mission Critical Communications | Radio Resource International July 2018*

..... *Thanks Chris KQ9Y for finding this article*



EACH TUESDAY EVENING AT
8 PM CDT – 9 PM EDT
ON WTWW 5085 KHZ



If you haven't listened to this show you need to tune in sometime. Interesting guests and lots of talk about HAM RADIO and related topics.



One of the best HAM Radio shows anywhere. You can find it on the TWIT Network and on YouTube.

UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

07/21/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

08/18/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

09/15/2018 – 1100 MARC Monthly meeting and annual picnic at the Steve Brown, N9LC Ranch open to all members, friends and family.

10/20/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

11/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

12/15/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

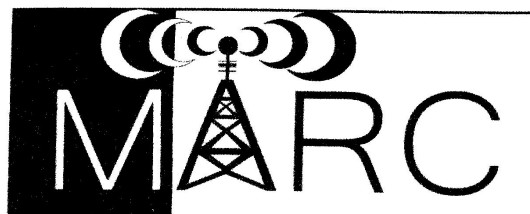
CLUB DUES FOR 2018

It is that time of year to pay your dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club.

The dues are still \$18.00 and they have remained that amount for many years. This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as licence upgrade, change of address or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and be part of our club activities.

Please see Ron, K9THR or Jacki, KI6QOG
M.A.R.C. Treasurer



MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Ron Schuetz -K9THR
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Ron Scheutz – K9THR /
Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.